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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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OBLON, SPIVAK, MCCLELLAND MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C. 1940 DUKE STREET ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314				
EXAMINER				
MAPA, MICHAEL Y				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
2617				
NOTIFICATION DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

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Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/589,729

Applicant(s)

OHTSUKI ET AL.

Examiner

Michael Mapa

Art Unit

4113

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 17 August 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 17 August 2006 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-8508)
- Paper No(s)/Mail Date 11/17/06
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
- Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Information Disclosure Statement

1. The information disclosure statement (IDS) submitted on 11/17/06 has been considered by the examiner.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 10 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sasaki et al. (US Patent Publication 2002/0169891 herein after referenced as Sasaki) in view of Kisaichi et al. (US Patent 6525676 herein after referenced as Kisaichi).

Regarding Claim 10 Sasaki discloses a network connection system for a cellular telephone, the network connection system causing a cellular telephone to access a site holding predetermined content via a network, (Figures 3A—3C, Paragraph [0010] of Sasaki). Sasaki discloses said network connection system comprising: an address conversion means for accepting from the cellular telephone a numeric string obtained by numerical conversion of information about a site to convert the numeric string into the site address of a site corresponding to the numeric string, thereby making a response indicating the site address as an access request destination of said cellular

telephone; and a cellular telephone including a conversion request means for requesting said address conversion means to perform an address conversion with a numeric string specified, when the numeric string is directly entered on a standby screen and a predetermined dial key is pressed. (Figures 3A—3C and Fig. 4, Paragraph [0010] & [0053] - [0054] of Sasaki, wherein Sasaki discloses using the portable telephone to enter the identification number; providing instruction to conduct a search and retrieving the web page address corresponding to the identification number; and wherein after the retrieval, the conversion element changes the destination to which the browser is to be linked to the retrieved web address)

Sasaki fails to explicitly recite there being an assignment relationship established between each numerical key included among dial keys of the cellular telephone, and a numerical character on each numerical key and/or a plurality of single alphabetical characters. However, the examiner maintains that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the invention of Sasaki to incorporate the method of inputting numeric strings and determining the inputted strings as taught by Kisaichi.

Kisaichi teaches there being an assignment relationship established between each numerical key [(12)] included among dial keys of the cellular telephone, and a numerical character on each numerical key and/or a plurality of single alphabetical characters. (Fig. 22, Column 17, Lines 51-64, wherein Kisaichi discloses the detailed steps of key input of 2337 corresponding to the word "beer" of Kisaichi). Kisaichi also discloses simultaneously displaying to the user for selection a plurality of candidate characters corresponding to the key input (Column 18, Lines 19-48 of Kisaichi)

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the invention of Sasaki to incorporate the method of inputting numeric strings and determining the inputted strings as taught by Kisaichi for the purpose of allowing a user to input necessary messages without increasing key operation frequency, as discussed by Kisaichi (Column 2, Lines 18-23 of Kisaichi)

Regarding Claim 11, Sasaki discloses a cellular telephone capable of connecting to a network, (Figures 3A—3C, Paragraph [0010] of Sasaki). Sasaki discloses said cellular telephone comprising an address request means for making a request while specifying the site address of a site corresponding to a numeric string as a connection destination, when the numeric string is directly entered on a standby screen and a predetermined dial key is pressed, the numeric string being obtained by numerical conversion of information about a site (Figures 3A—3C and Fig. 4, Paragraph [0010] & [0052] - [0054] of Sasaki, wherein Sasaki discloses using the portable telephone to enter the identification number; providing instruction to conduct a search and retrieving the web page address corresponding to the identification number; and wherein after the retrieval, the conversion element changes the destination to which the browser is to be linked to the retrieved web address)

Sasaki fails to explicitly recite there being an assignment relationship established between each numerical key included among dial keys of the cellular telephone, and a numerical character on each numerical key and/or a plurality of single alphabetical characters. However, the examiner maintains that it would have been obvious to one of

ordinary skill in the art to modify the invention of Sasaki to incorporate the method of inputting numeric strings and determining the inputted strings as taught by Kisaichi.

Kisaichi teaches there being an assignment relationship established between each numerical key [[[12]]] included among dial keys of the cellular telephone, and a numerical character on each numerical key and/or a plurality of single alphabetical characters. (Fig. 22, Column 17, Lines 51-64, wherein Kisaichi discloses the detailed steps of key input of 2337 corresponding to the word "beer" of Kisaichi). Kisaichi also discloses simultaneously displaying to the user for selection a plurality of candidate characters corresponding to the key input (Column 18, Lines 19-48 of Kisaichi)

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the invention of Sasaki to incorporate the method of inputting numeric strings and determining the inputted strings as taught by Kisaichi for the purpose of allowing a user to input necessary messages without increasing key operation frequency, as discussed by Kisaichi (Column 2, Lines 18-23 of Kisaichi)

4. Claims 1, and 6 - 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sasaki et al. (US Patent Publication 2002/0169891 herein after referenced as Sasaki) in view of Kisaichi et al. (US Patent 6525676 herein after referenced as Kisaichi) and further in view of Hofmeister et al. (US Patent 7257583 herein after referenced as Hofmeister). The combination of Sasaki in view of Kisaichi and further in view of Hofmeister is herein after referenced as SasKisHof.

Regarding claim 1, Sasaki discloses a network connection system for a cellular telephone, the network connection system causing a cellular telephone [10] to access a site [50] holding predetermined content [53] via a network, (Figures, 3A—3C, Paragraph [0010] of Sasaki). Sasaki discloses said network connection system comprising: a database holding means [35] for holding a database [40] in which secondary data and the site address of a site are associated with each other, the secondary data being obtained by numerical conversion of primary information about said site (Fig. 4, Paragraph [0053] of Sasaki, where Sasaki discloses providing instruction to conduct a search and retrieving the web page address corresponding to the identification number). Sasaki discloses a search means [32], when receiving from the cellular telephone a search request with a numeric string entered via said dial keys and specified, for searching said database to retrieve sites associated with the secondary data including said numeric string; (Paragraph [0052] - [0053] of Sasaki)

Sasaki fails to explicitly recite there being an assignment relationship established between each numerical key [12] included among dial keys of the cellular telephone, and a numerical character on each numerical key and/or a plurality of single alphabetical characters. However, the examiner maintains that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the invention of Sasaki to incorporate the method of inputting numeric strings and determining the inputted strings as taught by Kisaichi.

In analogous art, Kisaichi teaches there being an assignment relationship established between each numerical key [12] included among dial keys of the cellular

telephone, and a numerical character on each numerical key and/or a plurality of single alphabetical characters. (Fig. 22, Column 17, Lines 51-64, wherein Kisaichi discloses the detailed steps of key input of 2337 corresponding to the word "beer" of Kisaichi). Kisaichi also discloses simultaneously displaying to the user for selection a plurality of candidate characters corresponding to the key input (Column 18, Lines 19-48 of Kisaichi)

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the invention of Sasaki to incorporate the method of inputting numeric strings and determining the inputted strings as taught by Kisaichi for the purpose of allowing a user to input necessary messages without increasing key operation frequency, as discussed by Kisaichi (Column 2, Lines 18-23 of Kisaichi)

The combination of Sasaki in view of Kisaichi fails to disclose a search result presentation means [((33))] for presenting the names of the sites retrieved by said search means as a search result to said cellular telephone. However, the examiner maintains that it is obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the combination of Sasaki and Kisaichi to incorporate the method of searching and displaying the search results as taught by Hofmeister.

In analogous art, Hofmeister discloses presenting the names of the sites retrieved by said search means as a search result to said cellular telephone. (Fig. 11, Column 14, Lines 55 - 63, wherein Hofmeister discloses the user entering keywords to search the catalog server and receiving search results displayed on the mobile device)

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the invention of Sasaki and Kisaichi to incorporate the method of searching and displaying as taught by Hofmeister. The motivation for the combination being to incorporate an added measure of ensuring the user has correctly entered the right search string as well as giving the user the option of choosing various other sites corresponding to the search that may be of interest to the user.

SasKisHof continues to disclose an address specification means [[[34)]]] for acquiring from said database the site address of a site selected from the names of the presented sites via said cellular telephone to make a response indicating the site address as an access request destination of said cellular telephone. (Figures 3A-3B, Paragraph [0043] - [0044] of Sasaki, wherein Sasaki discloses retrieving the web page address corresponding to the identification number and displaying the web content in the mobile terminal)

Regarding Claim 6, SasKisHof discloses the network connection system according to claim 1, wherein the search result presentation means presents a character string obtained by character conversion of said numeric string in accordance with said assignment relationship and the number of names of sites including the character string to said cellular telephone when the number of sites retrieved by said search means exceeds a predetermined number. (Fig. 11, Column 14, Lines 55 – 65 of Hofmeister, wherein Hofmeister discloses receiving and displaying search results received from the catalog server and Column 18, Lines 19 - 48 of Kisaichi, wherein Kisaichi discloses displaying simultaneously the resulting plurality of candidates

corresponding to the candidate string in the case wherein there is more than one (predetermined number) matching candidate.)

Regarding Claim 7, SasKisHof discloses the network connection system according to claim 1, wherein said cellular telephone includes a search request means [[[11]]] for requesting said search means to make a search with a numeric string specified, when the numeric string is entered on a standby screen and a predetermined dial key is pressed. (Fig. 3B, Paragraph [0052] of Sasaki)

Regarding Claim 8, Sasaki discloses a network connection system for a cellular telephone, the network connection system causing a cellular telephone to access a site holding predetermined content via a network, (Figures, 3A—3C, Paragraph [0010] of Sasaki). Sasaki discloses said network connection system comprising: an extraction means [[[37]]] for accepting from the cellular telephone a numeric string obtained by numerical conversion of information about a site to extract site candidates corresponding to the numeric string; (Fig. 4, Paragraph [0053] of Sasaki, where Sasaki discloses providing instruction to conduct a search and retrieving the web page address corresponding to the identification number).

Sasaki fails to explicitly recite there being an assignment relationship established between each numerical key included among dial keys of the cellular telephone, and a numerical character on each numerical key and/or a plurality of single alphabetical characters. However, the examiner maintains that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the invention of Sasaki to incorporate the method of inputting numeric strings and determining the inputted strings as taught by Kisaichi.

Kisaichi teaches there being an assignment relationship established between each numerical key [(12)] included among dial keys of the cellular telephone, and a numerical character on each numerical key and/or a plurality of single alphabetical characters. (Fig. 22, Column 17, Lines 51-64, wherein Kisaichi discloses the detailed steps of key input of 2337 corresponding to the word "beer" of Kisaichi). Kisaichi also discloses simultaneously displaying to the user for selection a plurality of candidate characters corresponding to the key input (Column 18, Lines 19-48 of Kisaichi)

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the invention of Sasaki to incorporate the method of inputting numeric strings and determining the inputted strings as taught by Kisaichi for the purpose of allowing a user to input necessary messages without increasing key operation frequency, as discussed by Kisaichi (Column 2, Lines 18-23 of Kisaichi)

Sasaki in view of Kisaichi fails to disclose a search result presentation means for presenting the names of the site candidates extracted by said extraction means as a search result to said cellular telephone. However, the examiner maintains that it is obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the combination of Sasaki and Kisaichi to incorporate the method of searching and displaying the search results as taught by Hofmeister.

In analogous art, Hofmeister discloses a search result presentation means for presenting the names of the site candidates extracted by said extraction means as a search result to said cellular telephone. (Fig. 11, Column 14, Lines 55 - 63, wherein

Hofmeister discloses the user entering keywords to search the catalog server and receiving search results displayed on the mobile device)

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the invention of Sasaki and Kisaichi to incorporate the method of searching and displaying as taught by Hofmeister. The motivation for the combination being to incorporate an added measure of ensuring the user has correctly entered the right search string as well as giving the user the option of choosing various other sites corresponding to the search that may be of interest to the user.

SasKisHof continues to disclose an address specification means for acquiring the site address of a site selected from the names of the presented site candidates via said cellular telephone to make a response indicating the site address as an access request destination of said cellular telephone. (Figures 3A-3B, Paragraph [0043] - [0044] of Sasaki, wherein Sasaki discloses retrieving the web page address corresponding to the identification number and displaying the web content in the mobile terminal)

Regarding Claim 9 SasKisHof discloses the network connection system according to claim 8, further comprising a database holding means for holding a database in which information about a site and the site address of said site are associated with each other, wherein said extraction means searches said database to retrieve a site associated with information including a character string obtained by character conversion of the numeric string accepted from the cellular telephone in accordance with said assignment relationship, and wherein said address specification means acquires the site address of the site selected via said cellular telephone from

said database. (Fig. 4, Paragraph [0053] of Sasaki)

5. Claims 2 - 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over SasKisHof in view of Lemke (US Patent 6813344 herein after referenced as Lemke)

Regarding Claim 2, SasKisHof discloses the network connection system according to claim 1, wherein when receiving from said cellular telephone a search request with a numeric string with an operator entered via said dial keys and specified (Paragraph [0062] of Sasaki, wherein Sasaki discloses using an operator to specify a particular conversion server)

The combination of SasKisHof fails to disclose said search means searches said database in accordance with a function defined for the operator to retrieve sites associated with the secondary data including the numeric string. However, the examiner maintains that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the invention of SasKisHof to incorporate the method of searching as taught by Lemke.

In analogous art, Lemke discloses using a search method that uses a partial search as well as an exact search (ABSTRACT, Column 2, Lines 55-63 of Lemke, wherein Lemke discloses using a search for a partial match by using wild card values or preprogrammed partial match such as a prefix match)

It would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the combination of SasKisHof to incorporate the method of searching by using wild card values and partial matching as taught by Lemke, the

motivation for the combination being to be able to search multiple instances and variances of the search query without being limited to only an exact search especially when the user is not certain of the correct or actual term being searched. And as such teaches claimed said search means searches said database in accordance with a function defined for the operator to retrieve sites associated with the secondary data including the numeric string.

Regarding Claim 3, The combination of SasKisHof in view of Lemke discloses the network connection system according to claim 2, the combination discloses wherein the function defined for said operator includes the function of specifying a search field of said database (ABSTRACT, Column 2, Lines 55-63 of Lemke, wherein Lemke discloses using a search for a partial match by using wild card values or preprogrammed partial match such as a prefix match)

Regarding Claim 4, SaskisHof in view of Lemke discloses the network connection system according to claim 3, wherein the function defined for said operator includes the function of specifying which is to be retrieved, secondary data fully matching said numeric string, secondary data partially matching said numeric string, or secondary data prefix-matching said numeric string (ABSTRACT, Column 2, Lines 55-63 of Lemke, wherein Lemke discloses using a search for a partial match by using wild card values or preprogrammed partial match such as a prefix match)

Regarding Claim 5, SaskisHof in view of Lemke discloses the network connection system according to claim 2, wherein said operator is entered via a function key included among the dial keys of the cellular telephone. (Paragraph [0062] of Sasaki)

Conclusion

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael Mapa whose telephone number is (571)270-5540. The examiner can normally be reached on MONDAY TO THURSDAY 8:00AM - 5:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jefferey Harold can be reached on (571)272-7519. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Michael Mapa/
Examiner, Art Unit 4113
/Jefferey F Harold/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 4113